## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).


Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A communication method for a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

acquiring function and information index information associated with processes which are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit information among them, through the network, the information index information being stored in each of the plurality of information apparatuses through the network and relating to data held in the information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled;

presenting the function and information index information acquired in the acquiring the function and information index information; and

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented in the presenting the function and information index information, transmitting the given data from one of the information apparatuses which holds the given data to another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the data through the network.


Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A communication method according to claim 22, wherein the presenting the function and information index information presents bitmap and character information included in the acquired function and information index information.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A communication method of communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

storing function and information index information in each of the plurality of information apparatuses;

acquiring function and information index information associated with processes which are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit the function index information among the information apparatuses, the information index information relating to data held in the information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus ~~itself~~ is controlled;

presenting the function and information index information acquired ~~in~~ <u>by the</u> acquiring the function and information index information;

when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented in presenting the function and information index information, setting a connection between the information apparatus holding the data and the information apparatus holding the data and the information apparatus which executes the process linked with the data; and

using the connection set in the setting the connection to transmit the information data using a predetermined fixed length message to the information apparatus which executes the process linked with the information data.


Claims 25-26 (Canceled):


Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

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a connector to connect the information apparatuses to a network;

a function and information index information acquiring module configured to acquire function and information index information associated with processes which are executable on each of the information apparatuses, through the network, the function index information being stored in each of the plurality of information apparatuses, the information index information relating to data held in the information apparatuses, and the each of the information apparatuses informing other of the information apparatuses of a method by which the apparatus itself is controlled;

a function and information index information presenting module configured to present the function and information index information acquired by the function and information index information acquiring module; and

a transmission module configured to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented by the function and information index information presenting module, transmit the given data from one of the information apparatuses which holds the given data to another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with data through the network.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A communication system according to claim 27, wherein the function and information index information presenting module includes a module configured to present bitmap and character information included in the function and information index information acquired by the function and information index information acquiring module.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A communication system for communicating among a plurality of information apparatuses, comprising:

a connector to connect the information apparatuses to a network;

a function and information index information acquiring module configured to acquire function and information index information associated with processes which are executable on each of the information apparatuses connected to a network to transmit information among them, the function index information being transmitted over the network to be stored in each of the plurality of information apparatuses, the information index information relating data held in said information apparatuses;

a function and information index information presenting module configured to present the function and information index information acquired by the function and information index information acquiring module;

a first transmission module configured to, when given data and a given process are linked together on the basis of the function and information index information presented by the function and information index information presenting module, set a connection between one of the information apparatuses which holds the data and another of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the data; and

a second transmission module configured to transmit the information data having a predetermined fixed length message to one of the information apparatuses which executes the process linked with the information data, using the connection set by the first transmission module.